

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-11 remain present in this application.

The specification and claim 1 have been amended, and claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bamber, U.S. Patent 5,017,327. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 2 and 4 to contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that the limitations of objected-to but allowable claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, all claims should now automatically be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

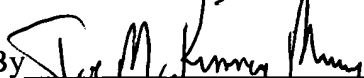
Application No.: 10/615,868

Docket No.: 2450-0518P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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